

## FRENCH INDO-CHINA

and technicians, for it is estimated that at least twenty-five years be needed to train a native personnel. Thai-Nguyen has an location, but it would have to count on a steady internal a metallurgical factory is profitable only when it can dispose of a minimum daily output, which at present is far more than the colony could absorb.

## THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND ACTION

The development of Indo-China's mining industry has been more that of the colony's economy as a whole. Even before the the rashness of many hopes founded on these mines had revealed. There was a boom during the War, followed by a decline; a second rise to be succeeded by an even more vertiginous fall. Their principal drawback is inaccessibility, especially of the metal so that when the intrinsic value of the output is slight—as in the with tin—the transportation and labour charges make the price prohibitive. No matter how successful may be international of restriction, many Indo-Chinese mining projects can never **be** nor the which they have swallowed up for ever. From to 1933 500,000 francs were invested in such hazardous the of 1928-29 unpardonable excesses occurred. permits for prospecting were granted, covering a of the colony's entire surface. Many of these mines existed only **as** All were exposed to the dangers of ignorance, but the was usually the hardest hit. In vain the colonial danger to the Colonial

Ministry,  
 1\$ with but the search for them is  
 difficult  
 of the formation. Brash covers many of the  
 veins and  
 deceptive. This facilitates fraud, for often a  
 surface  
 •o it deceives even experts. Nature  
 seems to  
 to exploit the ignorant,  
 An of prospecting is the  
 profession of spying  
 Oft fay of agents. An enterprising  
 prospector  
 in for new nunes. When he ultimately  
 files  
 til «k the Bureau he finds that a rival has  
 got there  
 of to attract the adventurer type  
 whose  
 not bib doubtful This type of prospector  
 • tie iwwsse, asking  
 natives